Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the instant application.

1-94. (canceled)

95. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to Ala (63) - Ser (208) of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide stimulates proliferation of epithelial cells.

96. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An isolated polypeptide ~~of claim 95,~~ comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to Ala (63) – Ser (208) of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide stimulates proliferation of epithelial cells.

97. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An isolated polypeptide ~~of claim 95,~~ comprising an amino acid sequence at least 97% identical to Ala (63) – Ser (208) of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide stimulates proliferation of epithelial cells.

98. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 95, ~~96, or 97,~~ having a Met residue at the N-terminus of said amino acid sequence.

99. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 95, ~~96, or 97,~~ wherein said polypeptide is part of a fusion protein.

100. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 95, ~~96, or 97,~~ which is produced in a recombinant cell.

101. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of claim 100, wherein said recombinant cell is bacterial.

102. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 95, ~~96, or 97,~~ together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

103. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 96, having a Met residue at the N-terminus of said amino acid sequence.

104. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 96, wherein said polypeptide is part of a fusion protein.

105. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 96, which is produced in a recombinant cell.

106. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 105, wherein said recombinant cell is bacterial.

107. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 96, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

108. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 97, having a Met residue at the N-terminus of said amino acid sequence.

109. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 97, wherein said polypeptide is part of a fusion protein.

110. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 97, which is produced in a recombinant cell.

111. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 110, wherein said recombinant cell is bacterial.

112. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 97, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.